March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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3月のライオン

Chapter 12

God's Child (PART 2)

What a cold name.

That's what I thought when I saw him for the first time.

But, I can no longer remember when that "first" time was.

BANNER: —TH MEIJIN INAUGURATION CEREMONY SPONSOR: HAKUSEN NEWSPAPER CO JAPAN SHOGI ASSOCIATION

For such a long time,

I took his existence for granted.

Souya Touji.

God's child in our land.

NOT A SOCCER BALL TODAY?

LABEL: YAKISOBA BUN

SFX: PARI... (CRUNCH...)

パリ

105円

LABEL: 105 YEN

AS EXPECTED, IT'S ALREADY COLD OUTSIDE.

SENSEI...

BUT EVEN HERE IT'S QUITE COLD.

MAGAZINE: SHOGI WORLD
SOUYA-MEIJIN
@YOKUSHOU TITLE MATCH

SFX: UFUFU (OHOHO)

FUFUFU... KIRI-YAMA,

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

フフフ

THE LATEST ISSUE OF SHOGI WORLD.

将棋世界

SFX: PAGA (SHAKE)

SO QUICK!

IT TOOK A WEEK TO CREATE, BUT ONLY A MOMENT TO SOLVE!?

Th... That's right... It's because you're a pro, isn't it...

Waaaah!

☗ 8-3A,
☖ K-2C,
☗ 8-1C,
☖ N*1C,
☗ +B-3C,
☖ K-1D,
☖ +B-1C,
☖ K-1C,
☗ K-2C,
☖ K-1D,
☗ N-2F,
☖ K-2F,
☗ +B-2D,
13 MOVES IN ALL.

すらっ すらっ...

Hmm, it's quite beautifully composed.

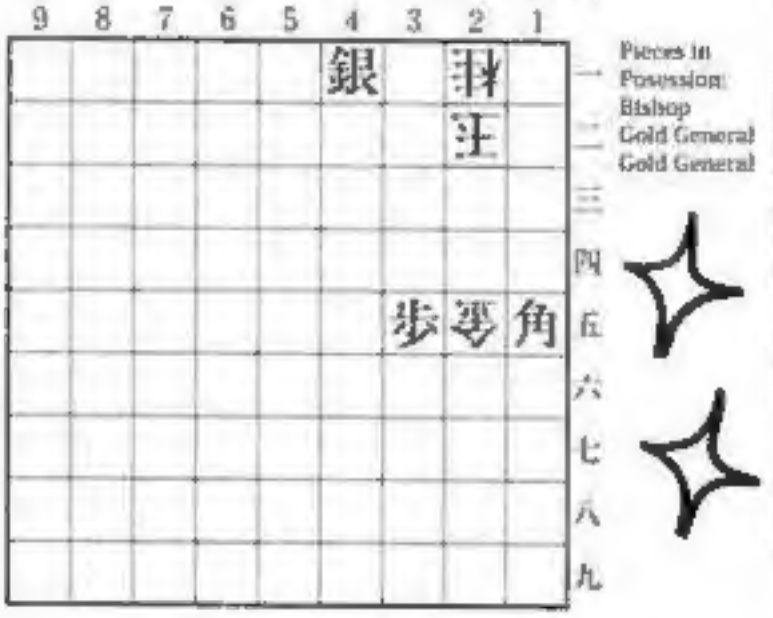
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S AMAZING.

Under Shogi Problem Salon!☆

My puzzle is in it!☆

【INTERMEDIATE】

< 5 > BY HAYASHIDA TAKASHI, TOKYO (FIRST ENTRY)



< 7 > BY SUGIURA AKIO, KOUCHI (THIRD ENTRY)

SFX: SURARY SURA SURA... (EFFORTLESSLY)

MAGAZINE: SHOGI WORLD
SOUYA-MEIJIN
GYOKUSHOU TITLE MATCH - 5TH CONSECUTIVE WIN
FEATURE: SHOGI TRAVELLER'S JOURNAL

HE'S ALREADY DEFENDED HIS KISHIN, SEIRYUU, AND GYOKUSHOU TITLES...

THAT'S SOUYA-MEIJIN...

HE'S DOING WELL THIS SEASON TOO.

将棋世

宗谷名人
王将戦5連覇

特集

AH.

I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE?

YOU'VE NEVER MET HIM? EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BOTH PROS?

I WONDER TOO.

RATHER THAN "MET HIM", I'VE "SEEN HIM".

WE BELONG TO DIFFERENT CLASSES, AND RIGHT NOW, MOST OF THE TITLES ARE HELD BY HIM...

I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY CHANCE TO MEET HIM IN A TOURNAMENT...

HE WAS IN THE SAME GRADE AS ME.

...BUT HIS FACE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE HIS TEENS.

HOW CAN I PUT IT... IT'S AS IF TIME HAS STOPPED FOR HIM...

IT'S A MYSTERY.

MAGAZINE: FIFTH TIME IN HISTORY
THE BIRTH OF A PRO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

IT REMINDS ME OF THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

IT WAS ALSO THE SAME FEATURE OF THIS MAGAZINE.

HM?

OH YEAH.

THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM WAS WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

THERE WAS A FEATURE ON "THE BIRTH OF A PRO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT"...

Sensei... Like I've said before, show me a bit more subtlety--

WHETHER YOU'RE REALLY HERE OR NOT.

EVEN THOUGH I NEVER KNOW

Even though you eat lunch all alone, by yourself.....

BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN INCREDIBLE GUY...

I FORGET WHEN I SEE YOU LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF ME.

AH... I SEE.

HEY NOW, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER, FUTURE MEIJIN.

"We're looking forward to it. You're called the future Meijin after all."

On the other hand, as the fifth case, I...

And afterwards, all four of them either became Meijin or a title holder.

In the history of shogi, there have previously only been four instances where a middle school student became a pro.

AREN'T YOU BEING SELF-COMPLACENT BECAUSE PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE A GENIUS?

"Even prodigies get in a slump sometimes."

I'M NOT INCREDIBLE AT ALL.

I...

I'M NOT INCRED-IBLE.

.....

YOU KNOW,

AS THE SAYING GOES, "KATSU" YOUR BATTLES.☆

.....

SFX: SUUU (SLOOOOP)

SFX: HYOOOOOOO (WHOOOOOOOOSH)

KATSU.

HERE, HAVE IT.

SFX: PERON (FLOP)

SCANLATOR'S NOTE: THE JAPANESE WORDS FOR "WIN" AND "PORK CUTLET" (KATSU) SOUND THE SAME, BUT ARE WRITTEN DIFFERENTLY.

Ah,

I see. Sensei is thinking about my string of defeats...

YOU WIN AGAINST "YOURSELF"... NO?

.BUT NOT REALLY.

PERHAPS, IN THESE SITUA-TIONS,

ANY-WAY .. SAY, KIRI-YAMA.

IT'LL BE EVEN COLDER NEXT MONTH.

YOU SHOULD TRY TO EAT IN THE CLASS-ROOM...

...OH NO,

BUT IF YOU EAT BY YOURSELF IN THE CLASSROOM, YOU'LL STAND OUT...

Oh dear

Like I said, Sensei. Tact with subtlety ☆~

Oh. I get it. It's broken, isn't it? Your subtlety. That must be it.

thin smile

SFX: HA (HASP!)

Sensei... I think I would stand out even more...

はっ

I know!

Ah!

Then why don't I eat lunch with you!?

KIRI-YAMA,

YOU GOT A GOOD SCORE ON THE EXAM...

BUT...

YOU DIDN'T COME BACK BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO STUDY,

RIGHT?

SCANLATOR'S NOTE: LOSSES ARE MARKED WITH BLACK STARS AS OPPOSED TO WINS WHICH ARE MARKED WITH WHITE STARS. SO LOSSES USE MORE INK.

In November I marked my third black star,

and I felt like I had [illegible] ink.

He was right,

so I couldn't say anything.

I say that I have "no reasons left to win", but then why am I bitter when I lose?

I understand it in my mind, but why can't I move?

I'm lukewarm...

about everything...

Ah!

Rei-chan!

HINA-CHAN.

.....

IS REI-CHAN ON HIS WAY TO THE SHOPPING DISTRICT TOO?

I'M GOING THERE TOO TO THE BOOK-STORE

WHY DON'T WE GO TOGE-THER?

REI-CHAN, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COMING OVER LATELY, HAVE YOU?

LAST NIGHT, WE HAD GYOZA, YOU KNOW?

WE MADE THEM ALL FROM SCRATCH, INCLUDING THE WRAPPERS, AND THEY WERE SO DELICIOUS.

You should've come.

Mcdonald's

100

BANNER: MILKSHAKE ONLY RIGHT NOW

メタクシエイク

100

.....

.....

MM. .

IS THAT SO ?

SFX: PAAAA (BLOOOOPP.)

¥290

¥100

352

MAGAZINE: HANA TO YUME STAR CHILD CHIKA-TAN

100

SFX: BUN BUN (SWISH SWISH)

NO, IT'S FINE. Only 100 yen...

HAH, W-WH...

IT'S OKAY, THAT'D BE BAD!

EH!!

.....

HOW ABOUT I BUY IT FOR YOU?

SFX: JUUU (SLUUURP)

ちゅー!!

It's cold and thick...

and so yummy!

Looks like it's her first time being treated by a guy.

TH... THANK YOU.

Wah!

OKAY.

Here you go.

SFX: GUGUU (GU-GULP)

Rei-chan really looks

dispirited...

YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT LEAVE HIM BE FOR A BIT NOW. EVERYBODY HAS TIMES LIKE THESE.

REI-CHAN HASN'T BEEN COMING OVER LATELY.

HE MUST HAVE REMEM-BERED.

THE TEARS CAME POURING DOWN.

REI-CHAN CRIED.

Onei-chan said that, but...

Eh?

Want some?

But...

Even though Rei-chan is always quiet and like an adult,

I worry about him because he also cries easily..

Um, today's going to be tempura.

Pumpkin or green onion,

when Onei-chan fries them, it's super yummy.

.....

so,

so...

Come over!

Let's have dinner together, okay?

Chapter 12 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 24

Perhaps Rei says this because the "Tou" (冬) in "Touji" is the kanji for "winter".

Page 26

Meijin is the most exalted of seven titles in professional shogi. When the position began in the Edo period (16th century) the Meijin was selected through succession, but since 1935 the title is achieved through an annual tournament. The holder of the Meijin title is considered to be the strongest player of the day.

Page 27

He does actually say "soccer ball", but with the furigana of "onigiri" referencing Rei's lunch in volume 1, chapter 2.

Page 28

Kishin, *Seiryuu*, and *Gyokushou* are plays on the real Kisei, Ryuuou, and Oushou titles.

Page 35

Gyoza are fried dumplings.